



# Deuce Four



Volume 1 Issue 1    1st Battalion 24th Infantry    Fort Wainwright, Alaska    June 2008

## *Notes From the Commander*

Friends and Family of the Legion –

This is our first edition of the Deuce Four Newsletter. Our intent is to use this newsletter as a medium to keep friends and family members informed of past, current, and upcoming events in the Battalion. While deployed, this will be a good way for you to stay updated on all of the great things that the Soldiers of the Legion are doing for their country while serving in Iraq.

Presently, the Battalion is in the deployment phase for our upcoming mission to Iraq. We are loading containers and preparing our vehicles for shipment to the National Training Center (NTC) at Ft. Irwin, CA. From there our equipment will go directly to Kuwait and then onward to Iraq. The first group of Soldiers will leave for NTC toward the end of June with the main body leaving at the end of June/beginning of July. The NTC rotation will take place in July. This is the opportunity for the Battalion to finish its final tactical preparations. Everyone will have the opportunity to take a well deserved block leave in August before deploying.

Let there be no doubt...this is the best Battalion in the Brigade. We are well trained and will excel in all future operations. It is my honor to serve as the commander.

Thank you for your support and all that you do.

**LEGIONNAIRES**  
**STRENGTH AND HONOR!**

**SEMPER PARATUS**  
Legion 6  
LTC Brian Reed  
CDR, 1-24

## *Headquarters & Headquarters Company*

In December HHC held the monthly FRG meeting at the Fort Wainwright Ice Skating Rink, hosting an afternoon of family fun after conducting a quick 20 minute meeting. Also, the HHC FRG hosted a gift wrapping fund raiser at the PX.

In April HHC honored some of our many wonderful volunteers at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The Volunteers included Jenny Johnson, Kirsten Reed, Maggie Hurst, and Sharyn Moore. Sarah and I greatly appreciate all of the wonderful help from the volunteers who help make our FRG possible.

May brought some critical training to the HHC FRG with Key Caller classes. Also in May the Battalion enjoyed a Dining Out. Jenny Johnson and daughter McCalough along with Kirsten Reed and other FRG wives worked tirelessly to ensure the location was prepared to the high standard the Legionaire Wives are accustomed to.

### Significant events:

- SSG Plantz Graduated Ranger School
- SSG Gibbs graduated Distinguished Honor Grad from BNOC
- SGT Shropshire graduated Honor Grad from BNOC

HHC also welcomes new babies to the following families: Hack, Worthington, Schuelder, Lopez, Kessler, Johnson and Ashton. Congratulations!

CPT Matthew Mackey

HHC, 1-24 IN

Commander

### HHC NCO Promotions

SGT Delaney	SSG(P) Munoz
SGT Gellman	SSG(P) Barbour
SGT Sims	SSG(P) Maine
SGT Howard	
SGT Massey	SFC Walker
SGT Fleming	SFC Haney
SGT Mandap	SFC Mitchell
SSG Harkey	
SSG Gibbs	
SSG Hedges	



1-24 FSE During Dining Out

### HHC Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Mackey	353-2451	matthew.mackey@wainwright.army.mil
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FRG Leader:	Sarah Mackey		strwbryp@yahoo.com

## *Alpha Company ATTACK!*

### *The Past 12 Months*

The past 12 months have seen a lot of activity for Attack Company. First, we transitioned from Reset, the period following redeployment when weapons and equipment get overhauled and refurbished and the focus is on getting our gear back up to snuff after months of abuse in the desert, to the Intensive Training Cycle, where we integrate new soldiers and leaders into the Company and begin “re-blueing” ourselves on our individual and collective training. Key training events executed during this cycle included a broad spectrum of operations.

We eased into this training cycle with individual tasks such as marksmanship training, EIB testing, and CLS re-certification. Gradually, the level of difficulty increased as we began to move into more complex, collective tasks including Shoothouse live fires, Close Quarters Marksmanship, Team and Squad Maneuver Live Fires, and Platoon Situational Training Exercises, which focused on many of the common situations we can expect to encounter on our upcoming deployment to the Iraqi Theater of Operations. Most recently, the Company conducted a Platoon Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise in the Donnelly Training Area, integrating mounted and dismounted troops, mortars, snipers, and the new Mobile Gun System. Throughout all of these events, Alpha Company soldiers have performed superbly.

The thing to remember about all of this is that while our focus may have been on training the Company, our day-to-day Army obligations didn't stop. Soldiers still had to complete professional development schools such as WLC, BNCOC, and ANCOC. They still had to conduct weekly maintenance on their equipment. They still had to pull their shifts on Staff Duty and CQ. We weren't exempted from our responsibilities to provide rapid deployment forces for the Global Ready Force tasking from the Department of the Army, or from deploying to NTC to support a sister Brigade's Mission Ready Exercise. Our soldiers accomplished all of these things in the face of some unforgiving Alaskan weather. However, in the great traditions of the US Army, our soldiers met these challenges, if not with enthusiasm, with professionalism and determination.

CPT M. Scott Jones

A CO, 1-24 IN

Commander



### A CO Soldier Promotions

PV2 Ritchie	PV2 Perez
PV2 Strurges	PV2 Murphy
PV2 Olsen	PV2 Ward
PFC Jespersen	PFC Wesley
SPC Schirripa	SPC Barton
SPC Bertrand	SPC Loreda
SPC Kesinger	SPC Schmidt
SPC Sparks	SPC Flores
SPC Ward, J.	SPC Nader
SPC Zimmerman	SPC Hobbs
SPC Ward, D.	SPC Bucher
SPC Ireland	SPC Nevarez
SPC Villanueva	SPC Miller
SPC Kimsey	SPC Mateo
SPC Holdbrooks	SPC Mullin
SPC Heim	SPC Davis

### A CO NCO Promotions

CPL Dougherty	SGT Fortner
SGT Hunt	SSG Sage
SSG Salomon	SSG Fatuesi
SSG Sosene	SSG Otto

(Promotions w/in the last 60 days; Soldiers listed at new rank)

# Alpha Company ATTACK!

## Intensive Training Cycle Ends, Outloading Begins...

And now, with less than a month to go before our own Mission Ready Exercise at NTC, the soldiers of Attack Company knuckle down to begin the push towards the desert. Recently, our days have been filled with equipment layouts, inspections, re-inspections, container inventories and loading, and intensive vehicle maintenance to prepare our armored chariots for the fight ahead. We have much preparation to complete ahead of us as we prepare and load aircraft for the trip to the National Training Center. We, as a Battalion, are responsible for the outloading of every piece of rolling stock in the Brigade, approximately 900 vehicles, all told.

Our Company is partially responsible for the Rail Load portion of this operation, which entails moving the Brigade's vehicles to the Rail Yard and driving them onto railcars to be transported to the port of Anchorage. This task will require most of the Company's personnel, in addition to a great deal of patience and flexibility, since we will be at the mercy of the Alaska Railroad Company for the scheduling of when the trains arrive for loading and transport. The good news is that once this task is complete, all of our equipment deploying to NTC and Iraq will be on its way, and we can turn our attention to the preparation of individual soldiers for deployment.

This preparation will include inoculations, updating soldier records, various cultural briefs on the people and

land of Iraq and our specific area of operations, the completion of security clearances, and final zeroing and qualification on individual weapons.

In early July we will deploy to NTC to conduct various live fire exercises and a rotation "in the box", where we will be immersed in Iraqi culture courtesy of a veritable army of role-players and some of the most formidable OPFOR forces anywhere in the world. This, our final large training event before actual deployment, will serve as the capstone to and the validation of the past year's tough home-station training.

Upon redeployment to Fort Wainwright from NTC, we will begin that most-anticipated portion of a soldier's preparation for deployment...Block Leave. Once our troops have had a chance to recharge their batteries by taking a much deserved break, we will once again roll up our sleeves, tighten up our boots, and put on a healthy coat of sunscreen as we deploy to the Iraqi Theater of Operations to finish the mission started 5 years ago of liberating, stabilizing, and rebuilding a nation of free citizens, enjoying all the benefits of a democratic society.

(photo right)

PVT Sturges ground-guides a HMMWV across railcars as part of Attack Company's Rail Load Operations. A Co was responsible for outloading over 300 pieces of rolling stock for the Brigade over a 3 day period.



(photo left)

SPC Ward tightens a binder and chain on a HMMWV during recent Rail Load Operations conducted by A Co in preparation for deployment to NTC and Iraq.



## Welcome to Attack Company

SPC Hoholik	PV2 Jordon
SPC Kelton	PV2 Perez
PV2 Olsen	PV2 Perez
PVT Pritchett	PFC Riley
PFC Wesley	PV2 Ward
PV2 Murphy	PV2 Welborn
SGT James	

(New Soldiers within the last 60 days.)

## A CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Jones	353-2401	matthew.s.jones@wainwright.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Hansen	353-2432	donald.hansen1@wainwright.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Melody Hansen		melody.hansen@us.army.mil



Bravo Company Barbarians

The Barbarians have just finished up a great training exercise down at Ft Greely. It started out pretty rough; with constant snow and freezing temperatures the first three days, but it turned out pretty good by the end. We set up in a big maintenance hanger, soldiers had civilian tents and some burn barrels – and the vehicles. It looked like Base Camp at Everest with all the tents and the Granite Mountains in the background.

The soldiers got to work several things including some driving time on the Strykers, Platoon attack of a small village, react to IEDs and ambushes, and some good work with explosives. The platoon leaders got to generate a good Operations Order for their platoons, brief the Battalion Commander, and then execute the plan with the platoon and live rounds. The squad leaders also got some good training in while coming up with their own concept for a night dismounted raid and then executing it in pitch black with night vision goggles and lasers. One platoon even had time to climb up to the top of Donnelly Dome, in the snow!

We were able to get our training done quickly and roll out ahead of the battalion to get the boys at least one night at home prior to starting work again the following week. All in all, it was another event that illustrated the high level of training and motivation found in the Company. Visibly better than anyone else on post.

CPT Jeffrey Harmon  
B Co, 1-24 IN  
Commander



B CO Promotions

SSG Massey                      SSG Martinez  
SSG Vesper  
  
SFC Black is taking over as 1SG

B CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Harmon	353-2482	jeffrey.harmon1@wainwright.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Black	353-2973	william.black1@wainwright.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Kristin Harmon		theharmons02@hotmail.com

# Charlie Company Centurions

## The Past 5 Months

Over the last five months we have seen many changes in Centurion Company. We have been very busy since the Christmas break honing our skills in preparation for our upcoming deployment to Iraq. SGT “Doc” Simms and our medics trained nearly the entire company on the combat lifesaving skills required in Iraq. This training was highlighted by the final course run at the Medical Training Facility at the BCFC. This was the most realistic medical training I have seen anywhere outside of a combat zone. I’d also like to recognize SSG Drawdy and SSG Jones for their efforts as the Combatives and LINES instructors for the company. They are both excellent NCOs and trainers who are directly responsible for instilling the “Warrior Spirit” in our junior Soldiers.

In February, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon had the privilege of deploying to Korea in support of Operation Foal Eagle. It is a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs level exercise to project force onto the Korean peninsula. While in Korea we had the opportunity to conduct our first complete “Stryker Gunnery.” This was an excellent opportunity for some of the vehicle crews to shine. During this gunnery we had three vehicle crews qualify with a Distinguished rating, i.e. they didn’t miss a target, day and night. The following VCs led those crews to distinction SPC Martin, SPC Stanfield and SPC Neal. Of note, SPC Neal didn’t miss an engagement for the duration of the gunnery, nearly 80 straight engagements! This is nearly unheard of in units that conduct gunnery regularly. Also while in Korea the platoons were able to continue to work on Battle Drills, Marksmanship, React to IED live fires, and everyone’s favorite, Media engagements. The presence of Strykers in Korea was reported on by nearly every major news outlet to include AFN, Combat Camera, CNN, Reuters and the North Korean national news agency. Needless to say Centurion Company was condemned by the North Korean government for our presence on the peninsula. We closed out our stay in Korea with a visit to the DMZ, which put our role there into perspective.

Upon our redeployment from NTC the company continued to integrate Strykers into how we fight at Operation Gladius at the CACTF. This was another great opportunity for our Soldiers to show how good they really are. The company performed superbly and continued to set the example for others to follow.

In March the vehicle crews had another opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the RWS during the Brigades Stryker qualification. Again SGT Nagle, SPC

Martin, SPC Neal and PFC Torrenti qualified with a Distinguished rating.

Finally the company deployed to Ft. Greely for Operation Kopis where they executed another demanding live fire that incorporated Strykers again. This was a great event to close out our training path and transition to the outload of our equipment for NTC and Iraq.

Throughout this period we have had some significant transitions and additions to the company. I’d like to welcome the following Soldiers, NCOs, Officers and Families to the company:

1st Platoon		2nd Platoon	
1LT Troy	SFC Schramm	1LT Ouimet	SGT Curran
SGT Nagle	SGT Shafer	SGT Menard	CPL Freije
CPL Sensmeier	SPC Phillips	SPC Coleman	PV2 Sanipass
PFC Winstead	Aliyah PitPit	PVT Jobe	PVT Vanveen
Adam Frank	Aiden Jones	PVT Mapes	Malachi Williams
3rd Platoon			
SSG Cheney	SSG VanAcker	PV2 Sharp	Damien Michael Chhum
SGT Padilla	SGT Walter	Landyn Michael Smith	
SGT Deihl	SGT Brady	Weapons	
SGT Harris	CPL Perez	PVT Quinlins	
SPC Ryker	SPC Chavez	HQ	
PFC Cuellar	PFC Scotto	1LT Redden	PFC Lange
PFC White	PV2 Hummel	SPC Wingfield	PFC Sweeney

# Charlie Company Centurions

I'm also sad to say that the following have departed the company for duties elsewhere: 1LT and Renner Eberlein, 1LT and Dusty Ferguson, SFC and Rose Black, SPC and Lisa Fischer, SGT and Whitney Parish, SSG and Sandra Martinez, SSG and Rebecca Carpenter, SSG and Marsha Savely, and SGT Massey.

LEAD THE LEGION!

-CENTURION 6

CPT Jeremiah C. Hurley

C CO, 1-24 IN

Commander



## C CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Hurley	353-2468	<a href="mailto:jeremiah.hurley@wainwright.army.mil">jeremiah.hurley@wainwright.army.mil</a>
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Dang	353-2471	<a href="mailto:ramon.dang@wainwright.army.mil">ramon.dang@wainwright.army.mil</a>
FRG Leader:	Dawn Hurley		<a href="mailto:dawn.hurley@gmail.com">dawn.hurley@gmail.com</a>



## *Echo Company — Rear Detachment*

### *The Next Five Months*

Echo Company, 1-24 IN was officially activated on Thursday 29 May 2008, with the understanding that the mission set for the newly formed company would be very different from that of its brother companies, but no less essential to the success of the coming deployments to both NTC and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Echo Company has been assigned as the 1-24 IN rear-detachment company responsible for conducting all operations on Fort Wainwright, AK on behalf of the forward deployed elements of 1-24 IN. Mission Essential tasks for Echo will include Replacement Training and Forward Movement, Casualty Operations, FRG and Family Support, Battalion and Company Level Garrison Operations, and Deployment/Redeployment Support Operations.

In order to be able to meet with success for those mission essential tasks, E Co. mission assumption has been broken down into several phases, with a desired result of a fully functioning rear detachment prior to deployment. To that end, the next five weeks for Echo Company will include a lot of training for all its Soldiers to ensure that we are prepared to undertake our mission, and become a fully functioning support entity of "Deuce Four." Upon completion of the five week period, Echo will emplace systems to support our mission essential tasks and test these systems during the July NTC rotation. Once the rotation is complete, the Legion will meet with a pre-deployment block leave period, during which E Co. Leadership will refine our systems based on what we learned during the NTC rotation. After block leave, September will hold more time for family and training for the rear-detachment mission which will be fully realized in conjunction with 1-24 IN's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



The point here is that Echo Co. has a lot of training to complete and preparations to make prior to the Battalion deployment, however, when the Soldiers of the Legion are supported by a fully functioning rear-detachment, the work will have been well worth it.

It is my honor to be a member of the Legion, but especially the commander of Echo Company, as the second and third order effects of this company's actions have the potential to reach all the Soldiers of the Legion and their families. To the Soldiers of E Co. and their Families, Welcome and lets get ready to see the Legion through a safe and successful deployment.

Strength and Honor!

1LT Joseph M. Bolcar  
E Co., 1-24 IN  
Commander

### E CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	1LT Bolcar	353-2490 joseph.bolcar@us.army.mil
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